

commonly examined together, since they are recognized as sharing common bonding properties and functions. Variables R^1 and R^7 also define groups of substituents which share common bonding properties and functions. Applicants maintain that moieties comprising each of variables A, R^1 and R^7 are reasonable in scope and should be examined as presently defined.

In order to completely reply to this restriction requirement, applicants elect, with traverse, the species of Formula Ia, on page 54, Claim 15, in which variable A is a 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing three double bonds and 1 nitrogen atom, variable R^1 is aryl, and variable R^7 is not present.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

By Maubel Romero Date 3/20/03